



Robert J Jefferson

Director

Owen Carrigan

Deputy Director

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Local Emergency Planning Committee
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Minutes

Meeting: Monday, November, 2011 9:00 am
Community Safety Building –EOC First floor

Attendance: Robert Jefferson, AFD Chief/EMD Director, Owen Carrigan, EMD Deputy Director, Michael Rademacher, Arlington Public Works Director, Joan Roman, Arlington Public Information Officer, Christine Connolly, Director Health & Human Services, Natasha Waden, Board of Health, and Kristen Pitocco, Mount Auburn Hospital.

Approval of September 29, 2011 Minutes

Emergency Storm Review, NSTAR

Review of actions during October nor'easter. Chief Jefferson reports that Arlington crews were well staffed and responsive. The major weakness continues to be NSTAR's response to the Town's service requests and communication, mostly around priority deployment. The Town did have a meeting with NSTAR officials, about Irene and October nor'easter, to address these issues. Although both parties agree on priority (public safety, major outages, individual outage), NSTAR operations during/after the nor'easter and Irene didn't quite align.

The Town will connect with NSTAR again and ask if we can obtain addresses/locations of outages for understanding their operations and for future public safety planning, such as locating a shelter during an emergency and knowing what areas of Town have power and what areas don't. MEMA is also looking at NSTAR's emergency response to power outages.

Regular tree pruning by NSTAR was discussed and a happy medium between their allowable pruning standards (8' x 8' opening) and what is advised for the health of some trees, has not been found. Public Works is working with NSTAR to obtain improved, and regular, pruning standards that better ensure the health of the tree while minimizing power outages during major storm events.

Flu Clinics and update on Flu Vaccination:

Health & Human Services Director, Christine Connolly reports over 2,000 flu vaccinations have been given to date. The Board of Health also provided a Shingles Vaccination Clinic and have some extra vaccinations available.

LEPC/EOC Activation/Notifications Update

Addition of Mount Auburn Hospital. Emergency Planning Safety Officer Kristen Pitocco attended the meeting. She reports Mount Auburn hospital has an emergency committee and runs drills 3 times per year as well as participates in community drills. They are open to participate in any drills and/or emergency exercises we may perform.

Training Discussion

Owen Carrigan suggests the Town do some outreach to find existing ham radio operators and those who may want to be trained. It is recommended these volunteers become MRC volunteers as we have a process already in place and they would be effectively part of the emergency response team. Owen to draft more about what the role would entail and work with Joan Roman and Christine Connolly to coordinate messaging and recruiting process.

Regional Committee Status

The turnover in the Battleroad Regional Committee has been deemed not active at this time. Best recommendation is to join the Mystic Valley group. Chief Jefferson to follow up with Mystic Valley Regional Committee, who currently is active.

Red Cross Shelter Training

Natasha Waden of Arlington Board of Health reviewed the recent Red Cross training on shelter operations and reports many MRCs attended this informative session. The session reviewed the many stages/activities of shelter operations which are helpful, but she notes the Red Cross has stringent guidelines (like no pets in shelters) and suggests the Town investigate developing its own shelter operations procedures. Chief Jefferson and Health & Human Services will investigate a possible shelter operations plan for Arlington.

New Business

Chief Jefferson is still working with MEMA on old claims and is entering claims for Irene. It is unknown if any reimbursement will be offered for the October nor'easter.

- A summary of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is currently being outlined by Chief Jefferson and Joan Roman. The goal of the summary is to provide an easy to understand overview of the Town's emergency management plans for the public. When an initial outline/draft is developed, it will be distributed to the rest of the emergency management team for additional review/updates.

Schedule Next Meeting

February 16, 2012, 9 a.m., Community Safety Building, EOC First Floor

Adjournment 10:00 a.m.